



NEWS

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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BON AIR JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTER EMPLOYEES TEST POSITIVE FOR CORONA VIRUS *No Residents Have Tested Positive*

Richmond, VA, April 2 – Two non-security employees based at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center who were in close contact with one another have tested positive for the COVID 19 virus. The employees were asymptomatic when last reporting to work and developed symptoms a few days later. The employees had limited contact with youth. Both employees are being treated at home.

DJJ continues to monitor the well-being of all employees and youth in its care. In addition to the two employees at Bon Air, one juvenile in a contracted facility and one employee in a Court Service Unit has tested positive. The juvenile is reported to be improving rapidly. Proper notifications are being made at this time. The Court Service Unit employee, who does not provide supervision or treatment of youth, was out of the office on leave for nearly two weeks prior to the diagnosis. There was no exposure to other employees.

DJJ is following Virginia Department of Health (VDH) protocols for notifications and CDC protocols for safety and cleaning. No youth has tested positive at Bon Air JCC. All residents are monitored closely for symptoms and screened every 72 hours per CDC guidelines. DJJ has been collaborating closely with the Department of Health regarding these recent diagnoses.

DJJ has taken a number of steps over the past few weeks to minimize the potential impact of COVID 19. As of March 13, all visitation at Bon Air JCC was canceled until further notice. New admissions were halted until further notice. Everyone is screened in the lobby before entering the facility. Anyone who fails or refuses the screening will not be permitted to enter. Everyone entering the building

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must also wash and sanitize their hands in the lobby. Staff are teaching residents proper hand-washing techniques. Residents and staff are washing hands frequently. The campus has undergone a major cleaning and daily efforts have been increased.

Social distancing is occurring to the extent possible. Social distancing is feasible in most units based on the square footage of the dayrooms. The facility staff is enforcing social distancing as best as possible without being punitive and without use of force.

Other methods to protect the youth and staff include:

- The school was closed per directive of the Governor and youth are being educated in their units with individual learning packages prepared by their teachers.
- Housing units do not intermingle with other housing units at any time.
- Large group activities or meetings for staff and residents have been suspended.
- During unit activities, unit staff work to ensure a minimum safe distance between residents at all times (i.e., leaving seats between residents while seated at tables, standing apart during other group activities, etc.).
- The vast majority of residents have individual rooms.
- Of the few shared rooms, many are designed for four or more residents, leaving ample room for distancing.
- No more than two residents share a room at any time with the exception of dormitory style areas.

DJJ is also working to reduce the number of youth at Bon Air and local detention centers, utilizing sound evidence based practices that consider the youth's well-being and public safety as paramount. Indeterminately committed youth are being reviewed for possible releases from Bon Air and our contracted programs. Based on length of stay guidelines, treatment completion and a viable placement and parole plan, youth are being released. Youth in detention awaiting trial are being reviewed for possible recommendations to the court for release.

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For more details and further updates about how DJJ is addressing the COVID 19 virus and its efforts to protect its staff and residents while continuing its mission to protect the public, click on the link below.

<http://www.djj.virginia.gov/pages/about-djj/covid.htm>

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